



# CURRENCY

## Committee on Financial Services

**Michael G. Oxley, Chairman**

**For Immediate Release:**

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## **Roukema Subcommittee to Examine Proposal to Put Community Heroes in Homes**

The House Financial Services Housing and Community Opportunity Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Marge Roukema (NJ), will hold a hearing on legislation to help teachers, firefighters, police officers, and other municipal employees purchase homes in the communities where they work. The hearing will be held at 10 a.m. Nov. 8 in room 2220 of the Rayburn Building.

“The Home Ownership Opportunities for Public Safety Officers and Teachers Act will help working families who have historically had trouble saving enough money, reach the American dream of home ownership and strengthen the neighborhoods they serve,” said Roukema.

“Now more than ever, we need to recognize the contributions of teachers and public safety officers across the country. We have seen in the wake of Sept. 11 that these are the true heroes in our society. And with this bill, we can help them reach the goal of home ownership that is all too often unattainable in our high-cost areas,” said Roukema.

The bill offers reduced down payments on Federal Housing Authority (FHA)-insured loans and allows the sale of FHA single-family properties at discounted prices to teachers and public safety officers.

The legislation also requires the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development to develop a pilot program to assist law enforcement officials, including correctional officers, to purchase homes in designated “high crime” areas without a down payment.

“By rooting public workers in the neighborhoods they protect, we can bolster communities and go a small ways toward paying back the brave men and women serving for the safety of our families,” said Committee Chairman Michael G. Oxley (OH).

H.R. 3191 – introduced by Chairwoman Roukema and cosponsored by Reps. Jim Leach (R-IA), John LaFalce (D-NY) and Mark Green (R-WI) -- is similar to legislation approved by the House of Representatives twice last year.

Scheduled to testify are:

**Panel I**

- Rep. John J. LaFalce (NY)
- Rep. James A. Leach (IA)
- Rep. Mark Green (WI)

**Panel II**

- Marty Pfeifer, Sergeant, Metropolitan Police of Washington D.C. on behalf of the Fraternal Order of Police
- Representative from the International Association of Fire Fighters
- John Bohm, Director of Public Affairs, National Housing Conference

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